

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

*****news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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INTERIOR ANNOUNCES RECREATION REGULATIONS FOR FEDERAL FISH AND WILDLIFE AREAS

Revised regulations that outline public recreational use of several hundred Federal wildlife refuges, fish hatcheries, and other fish and wildlife conservation areas were announced today by the Department of the Interior. The regulations do not establish new recreational policy, but update and clarify existing regulations.

The conservation areas covered by the regulations are administered by Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. In commenting on the revised rules, Bureau Director Daniel H. Janzen said, "We are keenly aware of the increasing recreational needs of the American public. Over 12 million people visit Bureau areas annually. The new regulations are designed to provide for the recreational use which the primary fish and wildlife conservation purpose of the areas will permit."

As a general rule, recreation such as sightseeing, nature observation, and photography will be permitted on designated parts of most fish and wildlife conservation areas during certain seasons of the year. Other recreation not directly related to wildlife management, such as swimming, camping, and boating, will be permitted on selected areas.

The public will be advised of authorized recreational uses through local newspapers or at the areas themselves by signs, pamphlets, or posted notices.

The revised regulations incorporate the provisions of Public Law 87-714, enacted in 1962. This law gives new recognition to the status of recreation on Federal fish and wildlife areas, while insuring that the primary wildlife management goals of each project will be protected.

The regulations will take effect upon publication in the Federal Register. They originally had been published in the Register as proposed rulemaking on January 29, 1964, and are being made final without change.

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